

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended) Ink containing at least a coloring material, water, and a saccharide-alkyleneoxy derivative comprising a compound represented by the following formula (1):



wherein A represents a skeleton of a saccharide selected from the group consisting of C₃ to C₁₂ aldoses, ketoses and sugar alcohols; EP represents an ethyleneoxy group and/or a propyleneoxy group; and n represents an average number of the repeating units, said ink further containing one or more C₃ to C₁₂ saccharides selected from the group consisting of: aldoses having 6 or fewer carbon atoms, aldoses having from 7 to 12 carbon atoms; ketoses having 6 or fewer carbon atoms, ketoses having from 7 to 12 carbon atoms; sugar alcohols having from 6 or fewer carbon atoms, and sugar alcohols having from 7 to 12 carbon atoms, wherein the compound represented by formula (1) is present in the ink in an amount of from 4 to 10% by weight, wherein the ink contains at least one of 5% to 20% by weight of di(tri) ethylene glycol monobutyl ether and 3% to 10% by weight of (di)propylene glycol monobutyl ether, each based on the weight of said ink.

Claim 5 (original) The ink according to claim 4, wherein the average number (n) of repeating units in said formula (1) is from 0.5 to 10.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The ink according to claim 4, wherein said saccharide-alkyleneoxy derivative has a molecular weight distribution of 2 or more.

Claim 7 (original) The ink according to claim 4, wherein said saccharide-alkyleneoxy derivative has a number average molecular weight of 1000 or less.

Claim 8 (previously presented) The ink according to claim 4, wherein A in said formula (1) is a skeleton of a saccharide selected from the group consisting of: aldoses having 6 or fewer carbon atoms, aldoses having from 7 to 12 carbon atoms, ketoses having 6 or fewer carbon atoms, sugar alcohols having 6 or fewer carbon atoms, and sugar alcohols having from 7 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claims 9 and 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (previously presented) The ink according to claim 4, wherein said saccharide-alkyleneoxy derivative represented by formula (1) and said C₃ to C₁₂ saccharides are present, in total, in an amount of from 0.5% to 30% by weight based on the weight of said ink.

Claim 12 (previously presented) The ink according to claim 4, wherein said ink has a surface tension at 25°C of 40 mN/m or less.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (previously presented) The ink according to claim 4, containing a 1, 2-alkylene glycol having from 4 to 10 carbon atoms in an amount of 0% to 10% by weight based on the weight of said ink.

Claim 15 (previously presented) The ink according to claim 4, containing an acetylene glycol surfactant in an amount of 0% to 5% by weight based on the weight of said ink.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The ink according to claim 4, containing at last one substance represented by formula (2) below in an amount of 0% to 10% by weight based on the weight of said ink:



wherein R represents an alkyl group having from 4 to 10 carbon atoms, which may be branched, a cycloalkyl group or a phenyl group; EP represents an ethyleneoxy group and/or a propyleneoxy group; and m represents an average number of the repeating units.

Claim 17 (original) The ink according to claim 16, wherein the average number (m) of the repeating units in the substance represented by said formula (2) is from 1 to 10 and, when propyleneoxy groups represented by EP exist, the average number of repeating units of propyleneoxy groups is from 0.5 to 5.

Claim 18 (original) The ink according to claim 4, wherein said coloring material is at least one of a water-soluble dye and a water-soluble pigment that is made water-dispersible.

Claim 19 (original) The ink according to claim 18, wherein said pigment is made water dispersible by at least one of surface oxidation and coating with a polymer.

Claim 20 (previously presented) A method for jet recording comprising providing the ink according to claim 4, and ejecting the ink onto a recording medium.

Claim 21 (previously presented) A method for ink jet recording comprising providing the ink according to claim 4 and ejecting said ink from an ink jet recording apparatus having a head which discharges the ink in response to a signal using an electrostrictive device.

Claim 22 (previously presented) The ink according to claim 4, wherein the one or more C₃ to C₁₂ saccharides comprise glycerol.

Claim 23 (previously presented) The ink according to claim 4, wherein the one or more C₃ to C₁₂ saccharides are present in the ink in an amount of from 3-15 wt%.